



CHAPEL HILL  
CARRBORO

*Chamber of Commerce*

[www.carolinachamber.org](http://www.carolinachamber.org)

September 29, 2015

Mr. Jeff Mann  
General Manager  
GoTriangle  
P.O. Box 13787  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Subject: Support for Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project

Dear Mr. Mann

On behalf of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project and the NEPA Preferred Alternative included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and we look forward to working with you to plan, develop and implement regional transit infrastructure solutions that will serve our communities long into the future. Regional transportation solutions are important to the business community because of its potential to provide convenient and dependable options for employees of our local businesses, students, residents and visitors to live and work in our community.

Over the last five years, representatives of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce have participated along with other members of the business community, state and local government agencies, our major institutions and employers, the public and other stakeholders in the development and review of the alternative alignments and locations for stations and the rail operations and maintenance facility for the D-O LRT Project. The NEPA Preferred Alternative reflects choices that are appropriate for our area. Making substantial investments in transportation infrastructure is a cost-effective, sustainable investment which meets the transportation and land use challenges facing the Durham-Orange Community.

The population in Durham and Orange counties is anticipated to grow by 64% and 52% respectively, over the next 30 years. In the Durham-Orange (D-O) corridor the population is expected to double. This growth is fueled by our colleges and universities including UNC, Duke, NCCU, and Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) and major medical facilities, including UNC Hospitals and the Duke University and the Durham Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro area is known for its highly rated quality of life and the opportunities presented by UNC Chapel Hill and the UNC Hospitals. The Chapel Hill area is often ranked among the best places to live and work and raise a family. The proposed Durham Orange LRT Project will help us to maintain that quality of life, protect our natural resources and attract new industry, jobs, visitors and residents.

Sincerely

  
Aaron Nelson  
President and CEO

It's smart business.